NORTHERN ISLANDER

$5.00

MARCH 2025 LUCK OF THE IRISH

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT
BIWC FISHING TOURNAMENT RESULTS ARE IN

VISIT PAGE 25 TO LEARN MORE

BICS LADY ISLANDERS WIN TROPHY IN NLL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

VISIT PAGE 31 TO LEARN MORE

REDEMPTION CENTER THE FIRST OF ITS KIND

VISIT PAGE 4 TO LEARN MORE

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1957
Keeping Island History Alive

NORTHERN ISLANDER

is proudly owned and published by the
Beaver Island Historical Society

Board President Angela LeFevre-Welke
Executive Director Lori Taylor-Blitz
Executive Editor George Broder
Circulation Manager Lu O'Connor

Phone: 231-448-2254 **Email: editor@beaverislandhistory.org** **Mail: PO Box 295, Beaver Island, MI 49782**

GREETINGS! We're excited and proud to communicate with you via email - a loyal subscriber who loves the Emerald Isle.

Published by the Historical Society, this is our 24th issue of the Northern Islander. From this letter, follow the link provided below, you'll be connected to our website and the March newspaper. At the website, you're automatically registered to click to the paper. Seeing it this way is free. For now. And don't worry, you'll still receive your hard copy in the mail as usual.

Eventually, we'll ask you to decide how you wish to continue enjoying the Northern Islander. The January issue detailed those options.

We've tested the link and it should work smoothly for you. A subscriber login will be required at some point, that will facilitate quick, direct access. We apologize if the link for some reason doesn't work. In that event, email circulation@beaverislandhistory.org to report the glitch and we'll fix it. If you prefer, call us at the Print Shop Museum and we'll take it from there.

Providing you with online service means we can deliver occasional Island news updates, fun goings on and even videos. For instance, the winner of the Saint Patrick's Day Frozen Fish Toss! We promise we won't bombard you with too many emails. Just enough to enjoy.

Have a super Saint Pat's Day wherever you are to celebrate.
Slainte.

George Broder
Executive Editor

Visit northernislander.news for online Northern Islander news access!

ACCESS MADE EASY

GET YOUR NORTHERN ISLANDER NEWS ONLINE

Check out our website!

Our mission is to strengthen communities by providing local news and editorials, and we hope you enjoy our online content.

Some of the features of our website are:

For subscribers only: the ability to read up-to-date articles about the county and surrounding communities

For subscribers only: an extensive gallery of pictures from local events

For subscribers only: an archived section of printed newspapers

News Online:
northernislander.news

NORTHERN ISLANDER

PRINT SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscriptions to the website are offered at a reduced rate to our print subscribers.

$50.00 for in-state residents
$65.00 for everyone else

Add online access for just $12.00

ONLINE ONLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES

$48.00 per year

Print Shop Perspective

Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

The Beaver Island Historical Society Event Lineup for 2025

Holy Cross Mass
On March 9th, a Holy Cross Mass will be held in honor of Fedor Protar, accompanied by a brief presentation either before or after the 12:15 Mass.

Music on the Porch
The Music on the Porch series is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. on June 9, July 14, and August 11 this summer.

Museum Week
Museum Week will occur from July 14 to July 18, featuring a Protar theme and including a play written by David Hill and a Gutsy Women presentation featuring four Island Matriarchs and our Annual Museum Week Artshow featuring local artists at the Gregg Fellowship Hall.

Kids Camp
Kids Camp is set for July 21 to July 25. Registration will open next month. We are actively seeking counselors. Interested individuals should contact the Historical Society or speak with Tara Walsh, our 2025 Kids Camp Coordinator. Tara is the Children's Librarian.

Beaver Island Film Fest
The Beaver Island Film Fest will take place on August 14 and August 15.

Lunchtime Chats
This summer, we will resume our Picnic on the Patio on Wednesdays and Marine Museum Mondays. Please bring a picnic lunch at noon and join us for an informal discussion about the island's history.

Meet Our Kids Camp Coordinator
We are pleased to introduce Tara Walsh, Children's Librarian, as the 2025 Kids Camp Coordinator. She is diligently preparing an exceptional week for our youth community.

Stay tuned for additional events to be announced.

Board of Directors: 2024-2025

President: Angel LaFevre-Welke
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Interested in becoming a docent for the Beaver Island Historical Society?

A $25 stipend is a available for each docent shift.

Each shift is 3 hours on Monday-Saturday (between 11am-5pm) at the Print Shop and Marine Museum. Sunday shifts take place from 1pm-4pm.

Please contact Tracy at 269-455-0311

MICHIGAN'S FIRST COMMUNITY - BASED REDEMPTION CENTER IS TO BE BUILT ON BEAVER ISLAND

By Waste Management Committee Members: Bobbi Welke & Vicki Smith

We are happy to announce some exciting news that will make recycling on Beaver Island more convenient and innovative than ever before. On February 12, 2025, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) awarded Peaine and St James Townships $86,000 to create Michigan's very first community-based redemption center. It will be built at the Beaver Island Transfer Station/Recycling Center and will allow you to return your 10 cent bottles and cans at the same place you bring your other recycling.

Why this is exciting news for our island community

For our remote island community, this redemption center is a game-changer. Unlike mainland locations, our island has unique logistical challenges when it comes to recycling returnables. Currently, full-size redemption containers are bagged up and shipped to Charlevoix via the ferry, with all containers stored at a township facility during the winter shutdown. The new redemption center will solve these issues by offering a convenient place to return and recycle containers all year round.

This project also supports our ongoing efforts to increase recycling rates. The Transfer Station is working towards achieving a 30% recycling rate by 2029. Along with other initiatives like a home-composting pilot program and wood waste conversion into wood chips that are sold to community members, the redemption center will help us meet that goal and reduce the amount of recyclables that end up in the trash.

How it will work

Two reverse vending machines will be installed at the Transfer Station, housed in a new outdoor addition that will be accessible 24/7. These machines will accept plastic, glass, and aluminum containers with a 10-cent deposit. Once deposited, the machines will crush the containers. The station workers will then collect the bags and transfer them to larger recycling containers to be shipped to the mainland for redemption. Many islanders and visitors have been choosing to toss their redemption containers into the Transfer Station's recyclable single-stream or in the green bags (trash) due to convenience. This has resulted in a loss of deposit dimes for our residents and community. Currently, redemption containers are returned uncrushed to the mainland distributor by placing all the containers into 30-gal bags onto cages on the ferry for the distributors to pick up in Charlevoix. Each winter, during the ferry's seasonal shutdown, all these bags of containers are stored in another township facility. The innovative approach to addressing our storage problems will increase our efficiency and will be easier on our residents and retailers. This will be a hassle-free option for islanders and visitors to return their containers and contribute to a cleaner environment.

Supporting the Beaver Island Community School

Many islanders and visitors already donate their aluminum cans to the Beaver Island Community School, where the school community sorts them for redemption. The proceeds from these donations help support school fundraising efforts, including flying students off-island for sports and educational events.

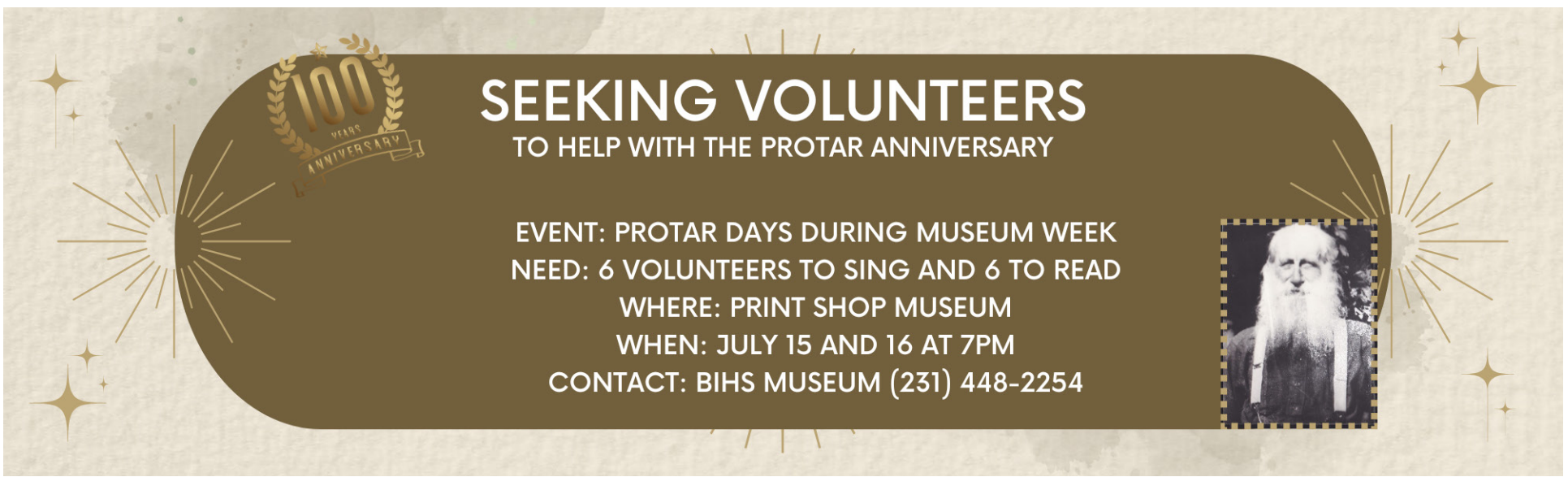
To keep this great initiative going, the Island Waste Management Committee is working to secure additional funding to purchase a third reverse vending machine specifically for donations to the school. This machine will allow residents and visitors to donate all three types of containers—plastic, glass, and aluminum—to help fund school activities.

Looking ahead

This new redemption center will be a first for Michigan, and we're excited to see how it will help reduce waste, increase recycling, and support local projects. We are still in the process of fine-tuning some details, like selecting the right machines and determining how the ticketing system will work. We're considering self-sorting machines that will automatically sort materials and confirm eligibility for the 10-cent deposit.

Stay tuned for updates as we work through these final details. We're looking forward to providing this new service to our community and making Beaver Island an even greener, more sustainable place to live!

Thank you to everyone involved in making this project a reality. We can't wait to see the positive impact it will have on our island.


100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY
SEEKING VOLUNTEERS
TO HELP WITH THE PROTAR ANNIVERSARY
EVENT: PROTAR DAYS DURING MUSEUM WEEK
NEED: 6 VOLUNTEERS TO SING AND 6 TO READ
WHERE: PRINT SHOP MUSEUM
WHEN: JULY 15 AND 16 AT 7PM
CONTACT: BIHS MUSEUM (231) 448-2254

THE STORIES BEHIND THE NAMES OF ISLANDERS LOST AT SEA

By Connie Wojan

"While we rarely forget the beauty Lake Michigan gives to us we sometimes forget the tragedies it may also bring. Like all people who live in such proximity to water as the people of Beaver Island, water accidents are not only a terrible tragedy but also a grim reminder of a fact of life." This Civic Association statement in the June 1984 Beaver Beacon was accompanied by a request for information on the 60 names of Beaver Islanders lost on the Great Lakes, which had been collected, and an appeal for donations to build a memorial in remembrance of them.

The campaign exceeded its $2,600 goal. On Labor Day 1985 about 125 people gathered for the dedication of the horseshoe-shaped fieldstone structure (built by Dick Burris and Dave Gladish) which was appropriately placed near the Whiskey Point lighthouse where it remains today.

The first three names on the bronze plaque nestled in the center of the memorial are those of brothers Michael (39), Edward Martin (46), and Patrick Carmody (49). They drowned in November 1869, a very long time ago. Nevertheless, thanks to much respected Island historian Helen Collar's decades of research, we can glean insight into their lives and the tragic circumstances of their premature deaths.

Helen's interviews of descendants of early immigrants and searches of census data and land recordings have preserved interesting information about these three Irish fishermen. According to her articles in Volumes I and II of the Journal of Beaver Island History (JBIH), Michael and Edward Martin (2 of the 5 Martin brothers who settled on Beaver Island), came from County Mayo, Ireland. They settled first on Mackinac Island, fishing for months at a time from camps on Gull Island. After the assassination of "King" Strang in June 1856, the Martins were among the first to check out opportunities on Beaver Island, where land and homes newly abandoned by Strang's Mormon followers were theirs for the taking. In the spring of 1857, they returned with their families to settle. That same year, Edward and Michael's brother James bought 57 acres in the area still known as Martin's Bluff. Descendent Francis (Ernie) Martin states in Volume IV JBIH, "James and his brothers each took a quarter mile of land at Martin's Point." They lived for many years, "fishing pound nets off the beach and cutting cedar ties in the winter for their livelihood."

Patrick Carmody was on Beaver Island ahead of the Martin brothers. He is listed in the 1850 Census as residing on Cable's Bay. But by the end of the 1852 navigation season, all Gentiles, including Patrick, had left the Island. The reason: On November 1 of that year, Strang sent a letter to every remaining Gentile family, ordering them to convert to Mormonism or leave within 10 days. Eventually, Patrick Carmody got even. According to Collar, he was part of the mob that forcibly expelled the Mormons from Beaver Island shortly after Strang's death. By 1863, Patrick managed to buy land "back of beach by Hannigan Road."

"Only the hardy could take it", opines William Cashman in (Vol.I JBIH) concerning hardships endured by early Lake Michigan fishermen. In the 1860s, fishing boats were small wooden sails or row boats that were often made by the fishermen themselves. According to Ernie Martin (Vol. IV JBIH), "Many of the fishermen built their own boats, for labor and wood were more plentiful than money…. " But as John V. Runberg Sr. warns in Vol. III, JBIH "Early sailboats were entirely at the mercy of wind direction and force.'' Weather forecasting did not exist at the time. Life jackets were unknown in the U.S., and nets, heavy with fish, were lifted with only human muscle power.

Given the facts above, it is not surprising how Edward, Michael, and Patrick (all of whom had wives and small children in 1869) died. The cryptic words of the 1870 census state: "They set pound nets off of shore, using only a small boat to tend them coming in the boat overturned and the men drown in sight of their families on shore." In 1965, a granddaughter of Edward Martin sent a letter to the Historical Society adding these chilling details: "My grandmother witnessed it from her kitchen window. The bodies were brought in and placed on her kitchen floor."

Unless you were a shop or a lighthouse keeper, there was no way to make a living on Beaver Island in 1869 except by heavy labor, i.e., fishing, logging, and farming. So how did the three widows and their many children survive after the deaths of their breadwinners? Some clues lie in reading between the lines of the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses. Michael's wife Jane, who had two children, ages 1 and 2 at his death, had remarried William Sendenberg by September 1871. The 1870 census shows Patrick Carmody's wife Mary (3 children) as married to Morris Gallagher and having a 3-month-old baby. By the 1880 census, her three children by Patrick are: "raised by a family in Petoskey", "domestic" and "laborer" in three different households. Edward Martin's wife, Grace, is shown in the 1870 Census as a widow with six children born between 1861 and 1869, living with her father. However, two older children (now aged 13 and 14) listed as living with her and Edward in 1860 are missing. (Collar: "They had either died or were living in another household.") By 1880, Grace was married to Francis O'Donnell, probably since about 1871 as their oldest child together was born in 1872.

So the widows' only choice for survival was to remarry, cement the new union with a child as soon as possible, and send their "older "children (as young as 13) off to another household to earn their keep. Thus, the observation that those "living in proximity to water" face "grim facts of life" certainly rings true for these and many other immigrant women.

Do you have a story to share?

Email it to our Editor!
editor@beaverislandhistory.org

Furbabies of Beaver Island

LIVING IN ANIMAL TERRITORY

By Elsie Burton

The Burton family household has been bustling with animals since we moved to Beaver Island over twenty years ago! From dogs, cats, birds, bunnies, lizards, to turtles and more - we have had them all. Talk about a madhouse!

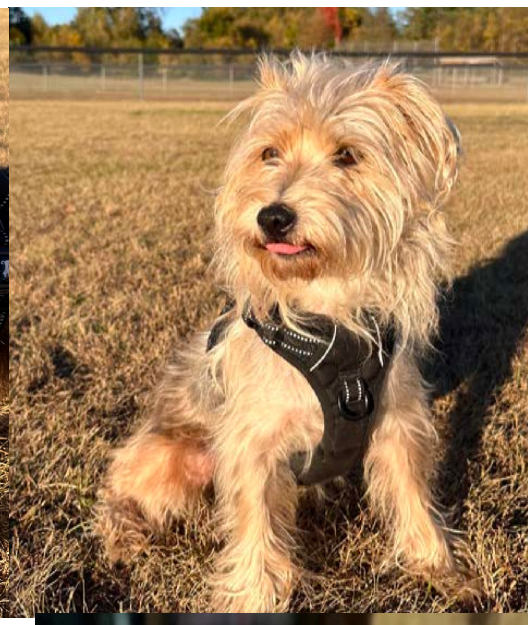
Today, our house is filled with two lovable little Australian Jack-Russel Terrier mixes and three snuggly cats. If you know the Burtons well, chances are, you have met their dogs Klause and Maisy. These adventurous dogs were built for Beaver Island wilderness.

Klause is confident, always looking for his next journey off into the woods of the Beaver Island Music Festival grounds. But his ruff persona doesn't fool anyone. In fact, if you can throw a ball, you will be his new best friend.

Maisy is a soft and sweet little ball of love. She is incredibly loyal to her family, but if she spots a critter in the woods, she will disappear in the blink of an eye. The funny thing about Maisy is that her cute fluffy fur makes everyone want to pet her, but she has no desire to meet new people, so no matter how hard you try, you probably won't get close.

Our cats Labouski, Squiggy, and Ozzy are close companions who spend most of their time outdoors, especially in the summer. Though they never miss the chance to get some scratchies! These three amigos get to come and go as they please, knowing they always have a warm home to come back to.

Living on Beaver Island has given us the chance to raise and grow with our animals in a way that most cannot understand. Where we live has allowed us to let our dogs connect with nature the way they were meant to, and for that, we are forever grateful!



Beaver Island St. Patrick's Day Event Details

The event will begin with outdoor games such as the famous shopping cart race and fish toss!

There will be men's and women's prizes.

For the shopping cart race: Teams should have five members and must be 21 years or older to play.

Check the Shamrock website for live music updates.

Saturday, March 15th

Meet at the Shamrock

Registration begins at 12:30 PM
Games start at 1:00 PM

Most games will be 21+

Shopping cart race winners receive cash prize!

Secret indoor games to follow!

Pancake Supper

COME JOIN OUR SPECIAL FAMILY DINNER WITH GAMES SUPPORTED BY THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY

WHERE: GREGG FELLOWSHIP CENTER

COST: FREE OF CHARGE. ALL DONATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE. BEAVER ISLAND FOOD PANTRY.

RIDES ARE AVAILABLE VIA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION

CARRY OUT Available

March 4 5-7 P.M.

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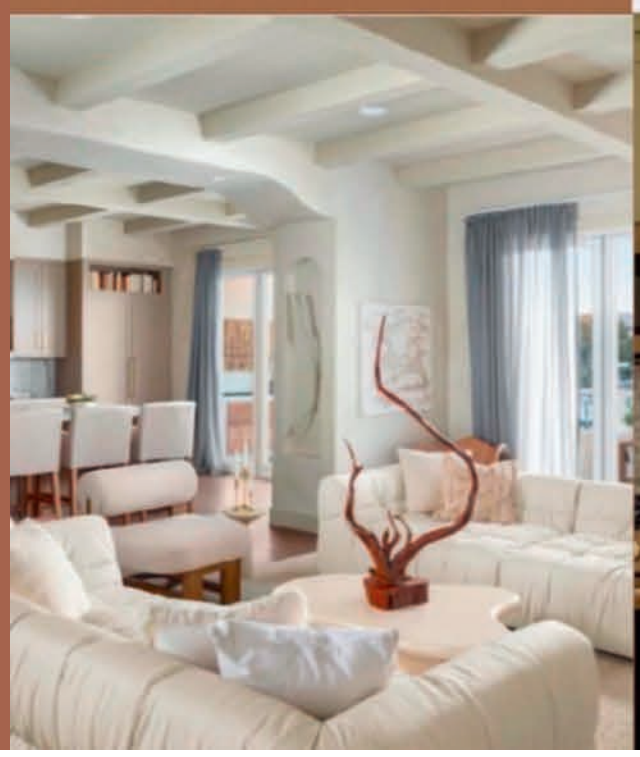


HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS BY GIVING TO THE GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

By Connie Wojan

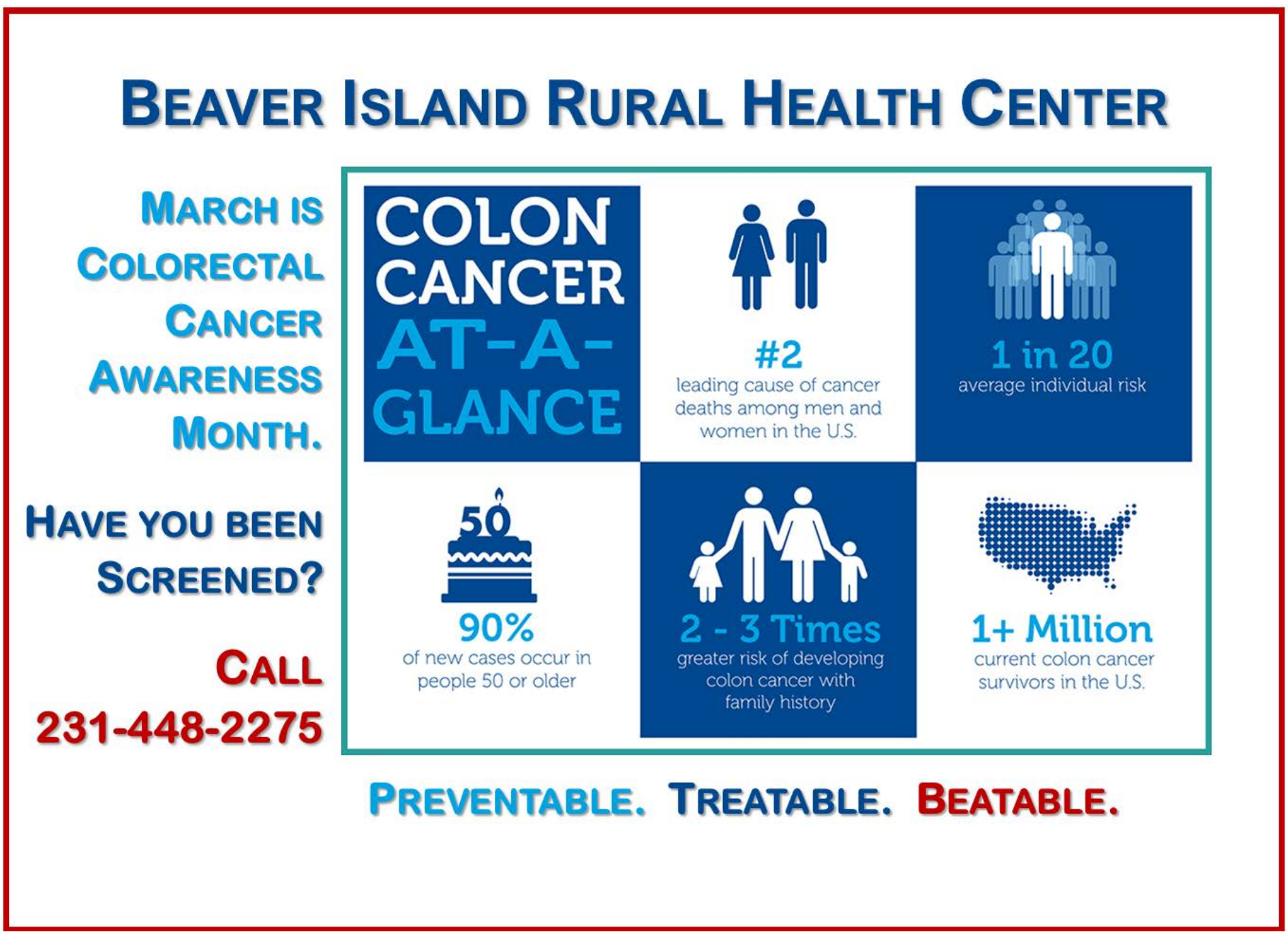
When Beaver Island residents face long-term illnesses, they experience more financial strain than those who live elsewhere. For transportation to frequent medical appointments and lodging on the mainland add up quickly. Helping those struggling with the cost of medical travel is one of the main focuses of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center's "Good Samaritan Fund" (GSF). Other medical needs can also qualify for help.

While this important safety net was initially funded solely through donations, as the years have passed, the need for help has outgrown the balance in the fund. Because of the past generosity of donors who trust the Health Center to distribute their contributions efficiently, the Good Samaritan Fund has become the largest local source of financial assistance for Islanders battling serious diagnoses. Last year the fund distributed $18,000. The Health Center has a detailed policy which requires recipients to document their income and verify how aid has been spent. To help as many people as possible, there is a maximum yearly amount that one family can receive.

Never-the-less, the GSF has not been able to completely meet the needs of those who apply. So please keep in mind the financial distress which many of our neighbors experience and make out your tax-deductible check payable to "Beaver Island Rural Health Center" and write "Good Samaritan Fund" (GSF) on the memo line. Mail to:

Beaver Island Rural Health Center
PO Box 146
Beaver Island, MI 49782

Donations can also be made online at: biruralhealth.org. The Board of Directors and Staff of the Health Center thank you for your compassion and generosity.


BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER
MARCH IS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.
HAVE YOU BEEN SCREENED?
CALL 231-448-2275
COLON CANCER AT-A-GLANCE
#2
leading cause of cancer deaths among men and women in the U.S.
1 in 20
average individual risk
50
90%
of new cases occur in people 50 or older
2 - 3 Times
greater risk of developing colon cancer with family history
1+ Million
current colon cancer survivors in the U.S.
PREVENTABLE. TREATABLE. BEATABLE.

NEWS FROM THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

With another winter month under our belts, life on the most remote inhabited island in the Great Lakes moves into March, which includes another roster of great programs at your Community Center. As always, check out the Community Calendar at biccenter.org for details and updates on BIC Center programs and events, as well as many other community events and happenings. Below are our highlights for a slew of (five!) Saturdays through the month.

We start on March 1 with a Saturday movie throwback: the classic 1942 WWII drama *Casablanca*, starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman as fate-crossed former lovers navigating a treacherous Nazi-occupied French Morocco. (For all our movies a freewill donation is encouraged, and our concession stand is open for snacks, a meal, or both.)

The following Saturday of March 8 sees the return of last year's *Mario Madness*, when we turn our theater into a massive living room with tv screens for some vintage Nintendo fun. Have you been practicing your racing skills? Lost your chance last year to win it all? Well, put it to the test for another Mario Kart tournament, this time with both the traditional 64 and the modern 8 Deluxe versions. Double the tournament for double the fun! With limited bracket spots, you must register beforehand at tickets.biccenter.org. This event is for those 16 and over.

A week later on March 15 we've got *St. Paddy's Shamrocks and Shenanigans.* In honor of The Great Day of St. Patrick's, we invite you to come on down to the BIC Center to get festive for the Clan-Na-Gael Games and events taking place outdoors and in the Shamrock that afternoon. We'll be offering facepainting, tattoos, and hair dying and tinsel for kids and adults. We'll also be offering concessions - however, our pizza oven will be shut down for the day. Please come and join us to celebrate St. Paddy's Day!

Beyond that we've got *Let's Get Quizzical!* Trivia Nights on the 11th and 25th, plus more great Saturday movies: On March 22, Dr. Suess's kid-friendly *The Lorax* and the sports dramatic-comedy *The Art of Racing in the Rain,* at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM respectively; and on March 29 the PG-rated animated superhero adventure *Sonic the Hedgehog 3* at 3:00 PM, followed by the acclaimed new-release Bob Dylan biopic *A Complete Unknown* at 6:00 PM. Plenty to keep you entertained through the snow and slush of the pre-spring weeks, here at your Community Center!

BIC Center
BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER
HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 AM TO 7 PM • SATURDAY 11 AM TO 7 PM
MARCH 1 AT 6PM
Casablanca
PG
MARIO KART TOURNAMENT
BYOB · AGES 16+
MARCH 8TH 6PM
MARCH 13 6:30 PM
an evening of irish music with
SIUSAN O'ROURKE & ZIG ZEITLER
Read it & Reel It
Beaver Island District Library
MARCH 22 3PM
Dr. Seuss' The LORAX
PG
Shamrocks & Shenanigans
SATURDAY, MARCH 15
11 AM TO 1 PM
FACEPAINTING, TATTOOS, AND HAIR DYING AND TINSEL FOR KIDS AND ADULTS!
THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN
MARCH 22 AT 6PM
PG
MARCH 29 3PM
SONIC 3
PG
TUNE IN ON OUR NEW FREQUENCY OF 91.9 FM! KEEP UP ON ISLAND NEWS WITH OUR COMMUNITY CALENDAR REPORT AT 9 AM, NOON, 3 AND 6 PM.
WVBI 91.9 FM
The Voice of Beaver Island
A FILM BY JAMES MANGOLD
A COMPLETE UNKNOWN
MARCH 29 6PM
R

Beaver Island District Library

Nibwaakaawin

A shout out to Eli Pease for giving the library a helping hand! Eli took it upon himself to shovel the path from the library to the school. We appreciate you, Eli.

TEEN/TWEEN CAFE
February Teen/Tween Cafe: These Teens and Tweens doodled their hearts out, enjoyed conversations and snacked on animal crackers. Our Teen/Tween Cafe is held once a month on a Saturday afternoon. Be sure to check our FB page or the community calendar for details on next month's Teen/Tween Cafe. It's open to kids age 11yrs and up.

March- Teen/Tween Cafe will be on March 1 and will feature miniature clay sculpting. Join in the fun 1-3 p.m.

VOX Books- Books that Talk
VOX Books (introduced in 2015) combine outstanding picture books, chapter books and non-fiction titles with audio recordings that capture children's attention and make learning and literacy development fun. VOX Books are the world's first audio books! That's right… an ordinary print books container, an all-in-one read-along. No need for computers, tablets or CDs- simply push a button to listen and follow along. Cultivate confident readers with VOX books; after all, the best way for students to become better readers, is by reading and VOX books are highly engaging.

Seed Starting with Heidi
Heidi Vigil shared her considerable knowledge about seed starting with the public on Feb. 15th at the Library. There were about a dozen people in attendance and enjoyed the presentation. Visiting the seed library, stocked with new seeds, as they went out the door, allowed the attendees first pick of the new seeds to plant.

BOBI Book Club meets on March 19 to discuss the book, The Music of Bees by Eileen Garvin. Meetings begin at 3 p.m. and last about an hour. There is a zoom option for those who wish to discuss the book and cannot be here in person. Contact the library for the link.

Fiero Code Club Challenge
The Competition runs until March 31. There is also a local prize component, First, second and third places. The club meets on Saturdays at 1 p.m., but you can also work on this from home as well. To access the Fiero Code Club site, you will need to be registered. Contact the Library for details.

Prizes include the following:
First: AImubot: STEM Robot Toys Building Kits, Aukfa Building Toys for Boys Age 8- 12, App & Remote Control Blocks Engineering Science Learning Educational Coding DIY Stem Projects Robot Gifts for Boys & Girls(635PCS)

Second: Code Piano: Code Piano STEM Coding Toy for Kids 8-12+ and Teens. Learn Real C++ Coding Skills. Includes 40+ Online Projects & Songs in Block and Typed Programming. Boys & Girls Create Songs & Sound Effects.

Third: Thames & Kosmos Robotics Smart Machines Junior STEM Kit, Build & Code Your Robot's Movements, Speed, Lights & Sounds, for Ages 8+, Use Screen-Free w/Built-in Buttons or via Block-Based Coding App

Native American Crafts with Sally Ramey
Sally will be at the Library on March 10-11 teaching the BICS students about Native American Crafts and the community in the evening on the 10th. 7 p.m.

Aanii N'diz-ni-kaaz Niizho-Nimkii Kwe!(Hello, my name is Two-Thunder Woman!) My Birth name is Sally Ramey. I'm Ojibwe Bear Clan, born and raised in Northern Michigan, and a Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Tribal Member.

My family name is Kenwabikise and my mother was born and raised on Beaver Island. In January 2024, she entered the Ancestral Realm. I really try my hardest to make her proud by passing on my craft through community events and sharing my knowledge as much as possible!
I'm not only an artist, I'm also a Nokomis (grandmother), wife, mother, daughter, sister and newer small business owner in Benzie County, MI. I am also ordained and now carry the name, "Shaman". Or as our peoples say, "Pipe Carrier". I officiate Ojibwe Style wedding ceremonies for Native and Non-Natives. This has made me feel whole again, in ways I never knew possible, and I feel closer to my mother and the Creator when officiating these ceremonial traditions!

My husband, Dean & I officially started Two-Thunder Gardens in 2022. We have two greenhouses and a Three Sisters Garden. I also create Authentic Ojibwe Artwork, Homemade Zucchini Breads (recently adding a dedicated gluten-free choice), handcrafted soaps and other bath and body products using pure plant based essential oils.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or custom art orders, I'm ALWAYS happy to talk about Ojibwe Culture! We don't have a website, but typically take orders through my social media accounts, email or at markets…

FB: Twothundergardens Sally Niizho Nimikiikwe
Insta: @twothundergardens
Email: twothundergardens@gmail.com

Or you can find us in the summers at various Farmers Markets around Benzie County!
Miigwetch,

Niizho-Nimkee Kwe, Two Thunder Woman
BEAVER ISLAND DISTRICT LIBRARY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET

Notice
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Wednesday, March 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Beaver Island District Library, 26400 Donegal Bay Road, Beaver Island, Michigan, the District Library Board of the Beaver Island District Library will hold a public hearing to consider the Library's proposed budget for the 2025- 2026 fiscal year.

The Board may not adopt its proposed budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Library, 26400 Donegal Bay Road, Beaver Island, Michigan. All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing regarding the proposed budget. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Beaver Island District Library Board.

LADY ISLANDERS!

GO GREEN

YOU DID IT!

Surprise someone with a Happy Birthday Sign in their front yard!

Beaver Island National Honor Society will put up the signs the night before

Make a donation of $10, $20, $50 or a custom amount to Build a Cure For Brain Cancer

Donate at https://www.bacresearch.org/fundraising, write a check to BAC or pay cash

***If you want the birthday sign for a friend, neighbors, or someone that might like to wake up to a Birthday sign* Contact:**

Alyssa Martin, NHS President

BI Community School NHS Adviser Connie Boyle

(231) 313-9053

Fundraising Co-Chair Michelle LaFreniere

BEAVER ISLAND COA UPDATE

By Your Beaver Island Advisory Committee

Traditional Irish Music by Danny Gillespie & Friends
Please join the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging to celebrate
St. Patrick's Day
LUNCH
On Beaver Island
FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025
11:30AM-12:30PM
GREGG FELLOWSHIP HALL
Call 231-237-0103 to reserve one of the 50 Meals to be provided
On the menu:
Traditional Boil Dinner
Rolls
Lucky Charms S'mores
Fresh Fruit
Prepared by Harbour Bodega Catering

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT
BEAVER ISLAND
RESIDENTS AGED
60 & OVER
If you need meal vouchers:
We will have vouchers available during the congregate meal on Friday, January 17 at the Gregg Fellowship Hall between 11:30AM-12:30PM.
You may also call 231-448-2124. We will be issuing vouchers from the mainland with a few special pop-up voucher sales dates on Beaver Island to be announced.
Hours to call:
Closed-Monday, January 20, 2025
Closed-Monday, February 17, 2025
Please Call-Monday-Friday, 8AM-3PM
CHARLEVOIX COUNTY
COMMISSION ON AGING

WE ARE HIRING

Employer: Charlevoix County

Department: Commission on Aging & Maintenance

Position: Site Coordinator/Maintenance Assistant

Pay Range: Full-time with benefits, starting hourly wage, $20.19

Overview of Position & Duties

Charlevoix County is seeking a full-time Site Coordinator and Maintenance Assistant for Beaver Island. The Charlevoix County Commission on Aging is seeking a Site Coordinator for our Beaver Island senior residents. Under the direction of the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging Director and Assistant Director, this position is responsible for the daily COA senior services for Beaver Island residents and will be based in the Charlevoix County building. In addition to Site Coordinator duties, this position has maintenance duties including cleaning and maintaining the Charlevoix County building offices and bathroom, clearing of doorways and entrance area as needed, cleaning and coordinating appropriate maintenance of fleet vehicles, transporting Charlevoix County supplies/employees to and from the Beaver Island Ferry or airports as needed in conjunction with Administration, Maintenance, Building Safety or other departments, and may be asked to travel to the county's lighthouse facility on occasion. This job posting is presented as an overview and should not be considered all-inclusive. A full job description is available upon request or at the time of interview.

Mandatory Requirements

• Physical ability to lift a maximum of 50 pounds and transfer items to and from vehicles and/or
dining and office facilities
• Valid Driver's License

Environment:

This position is based in a climate-controlled office building atmosphere with outdoor needs, such as cleaning fleet vehicles, mowing the lawn, deliveries to may occur from time to time to and from the Ferry or various airports. This office is located in a building shared with Charlevoix County Sheriff staff and their facilities, as well as Transit staff and vehicles.

How to Apply

Please submit cover letter, resume, and completed Charlevoix County job application (available on the employment opportunities page of charlevoixcounty.org) as one package. Deliver by email to administrtion@charlevoixcounty.org or via mail, or in person to Human Resources at 13513 Division St.,Charlevoix, MI 49720.

IMPROV WORKSHOP - TEST YOUR SKILLS

By Kim Warner

In the heart of our vibrant community, a unique opportunity awaits those eager to unleash their creativity and humor. I invite you to join the Improv Workshops at the BIC Center. Every two weeks, you (yes, YOU, dear reader) are invited to partake in a night of spontaneous fun where thinking on your feet, active listening, and laughter are the only requirements. The best part? There will be no audience, so if you show up, you'll be an integral part of the workshop itself. This setup ensures that everyone participates, fostering a supportive environment where all feel comfortable and engaged. I'd tell you more about it, but much like Vegas, "What happens at Improv, stays at Improv."

No experience is necessary to come out and join us. Whether you're a seasoned performer or someone who has watched "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" and thought it looked fun, the goal of these workshops is to be inclusive and enjoyable for all. Through a series of fun improv games and exercises, you'll practice the basics of improvisation, such as the "yes, and" principle and active listening, which are essential for creating engaging scenes and stories.

Our group meets every other Tuesday at 5:30 pm in the BIC Center Theater, providing a consistent space for community members to come together, share laughter, and develop new skills. It's not just about performing; it's about connecting with others and being part of a fun-loving community that values spontaneity and creativity.

So, if you're ready to challenge yourself, have a blast, and become part of a lively community, join us for a night of improv. Don't worry about being funny or talented; bring your willingness to participate and have fun. Participants often say things like, "I haven't laughed that hard in a long time," and "I'm so glad I left my house tonight!"

Come and discover the joy of improvisation with us!

Next Improv Workshop Dates*:

- March 4th
- March 18th
- April 1st

***Check the BIC Center Calendar for any updates**

MEDICAL RESPONDER COURSE COMES TO THE ISLAND

By Chris McGee

Beaver Island EMS, in partnership with the Beaver Island Community School, has teamed up to offer residents of Beaver Island the opportunity to attend and complete a Medical First Responder course.

The program provides a valuable opportunity to earn certification on one of the most remote islands in the United States during the winter season. It is an excellent chance to learn new skills during the off-season in preparation for the busy summer months.

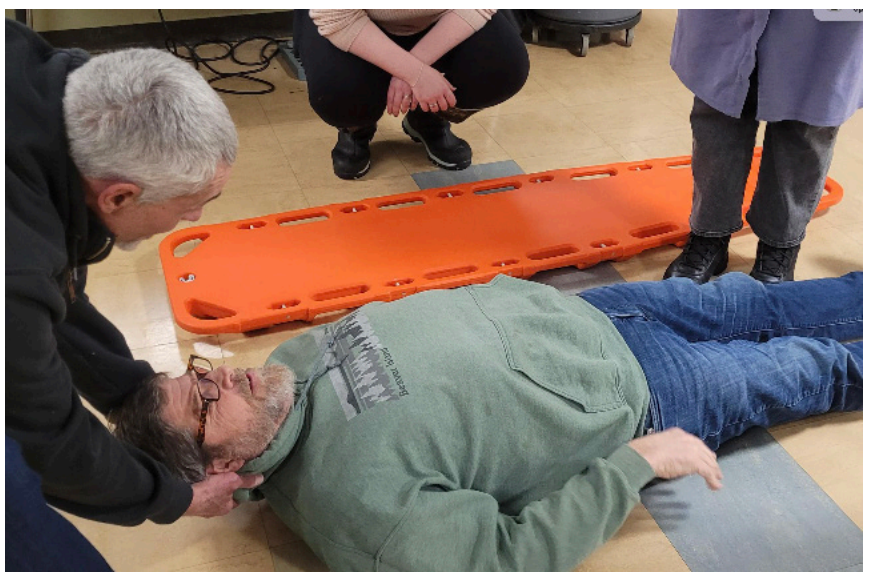
"Having access to education that would otherwise cost someone hundreds of dollars—not only in tuition but also in travel costs to the mainland—is priceless," stated program director Chris McGee. Funding provided by Beaver Island EMS covered both course materials and tuition, ensuring that students could participate without any financial burden.

The course, which runs from January through June, provides participants with roughly 70 hours of classroom instruction, covering topics such as human anatomy, emergency procedures, and the pathophysiology behind disease processes. The goal of the course is to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide life-saving treatment in the event of an emergency.

The class includes both men and women from diverse backgrounds. Some participants are interested in pursuing a career in emergency care, while others are motivated by a desire to support their community and contribute their time to a meaningful cause.

This week, students covered methods to establish an airway using specific techniques and equipment. They learned how to provide rescue breaths if a patient is found not breathing.

Upon successful completion of the program, students will have the ability to assess and treat patients across a wide spectrum of medical emergencies. This increases the number of certified individuals capable of performing life-saving measures on Beaver Island in the event of an emergency.



EACH MONTH, WE WILL BE FEATURING RECIPES THAT ARE SURE TO HAVE YOU COMING BACK FOR SECOND HELPINGS. THE RECIPES THAT WE GREW UP WITH AND STILL MAKE TODAY.

SUBMITTED BY: RACH BECKER

Marie (Connaghan) LaFreniere is a native to Beaver Island. Her parents, Gene and Margaret Ellen (McDonough) Connaghan had deep family roots there. The oldest of four girls, they moved to Chicago when Marie was five. They would come to Beaver Island for summers, and stay with their grandparents, Bert and Mary McDonough. Marie came back for her senior year of high school. She settled back in to living in Chicago for thirty plus years, but still came for visits. Her oldest son Rory, opted to finish his education on Beaver Island. Marie and her youngest son Keith returned to Beaver Island full-time in 2003, when she married Jerry LaFreniere. Keith also finished his years of schooling on Beaver Island.

It's only fitting that this month, we feature a traditional Irish dish. While this is usually a side dish, adding diced corned beef makes it a hearty meal.

Marie Connaghan LaFreniere's Colcannon with Corned Beef

Ingredients:

4 large russet potatoes (2 to 2 1/2 pounds), peeled and cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
Salt, to taste
5 to 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, plus more for serving
3 lightly packed cups shredded cabbage
1 bunch green onions, finely chopped (about 3/4 cup)
Milk or cream
Corned Beef

1. Boil potatoes in water with two tablespoons salt until fork tender. Twenty minutes or so. Drain and set aside.

2. Using the same pan, add three tablespoons butter, and the cabbage. Cook slowly until tender, fifteen minutes or so. Add the green onions and cook for another minute.

3. Using a potato masher, mix the potatoes and cabbage/onion mixture, and add milk until your preferred consistency.

4. Slice and chop cooked corned beef into bite size pieces and stir into the potato mixture.

5. Top the remaining butter and serve.

Blasta! (Irish for delicious.)

BEAVER BEACON

FOR SALE

Community Banking on Beaver Island

MEET LISA GILLESPIE

By Michelle LaFreniere

Lisa and I became friends lots of years ago, quite by accident. My daughter Emily worked for her in her gift shop, and needed coverage rather urgently. I told her I would give it a try. Lisa gave the go ahead, and the rest is history. Best accident I have ever had. When Emily moved on to other jobs Lisa kept me by default.

My favorite memory of working for her, doesn't involve her or work. I had gotten a new laptop and couldn't wait to try it out. During a little lull in the day, I went outside and decided to play around on my new toy. I no sooner sat down when Robert, her husband came home. He took one look at me sitting there, and asked " Do you get paid by the hour or by the job?" I replied , "by the hour." He shook his head, grinned and said " good, go find the mower and get this grass cut, since we have so much time on our hands".

I learned a valuable lesson to never be idle rather quickly. But back to Lisa, Lisa, Lisa as Dawn Marsh calls her. What an adventure buddy she is! We have been to both ends of US Highway 41, and everywhere in between. We have been to so many really cool places in the UP. We always intended to set an itinerary, but at the end of the day, we really were just flying by the seat of our pants. We find all the good spots that way. We made it a priority to eat local, and talk to the locals to find the coolest things to do. They never steered us wrong. We are still trying to replicate a lemon chicken pasta dish we had in Marquette. The best whitefish we both had ever had was served in a restaurant we would never have visited if it hadn't been for locals telling us to not be fooled by its appearance.

We've taken tours of caves and mines. We've visited so many waterfalls, each one unique and beautiful. We've walked more beaches than most people. We are always looking for the perfect stone. A heart shaped one or something unique to the area we are in. Those go to Robert's grave. He always encouraged her to travel. To do the things she loved.

We planned a trip to the Florida Keys one time with Joan LaFreniere and Rach Becker. Our housing was taken out by a hurricane, and the airline wouldn't let us change our destination so .. we said to hell with it, flew to Miami, rented a car and decided to see where the wind blew us. Florida was in the middle of an usually cold spell. We traveled the perimeter of Florida, staying just ahead of the cold weather. We had the best time. We visited places from our memories, and places we always wanted to go. We visited friends and family along the way. We laughed till our sides hurt, and came up with some interesting nicknames for each other.

Another favorite trip was to visit Lisa in Orange Beach, AL. We ate locally at great restaurants, walked the beaches, had happy hour most days with the O'Donnell girls, Beverly and Carol Ann. The coolest thing about that particular visit was attending church at the Flor-a-Bama .Those people know how to worship. And they serve some wicked Bushwhackers. If you ever get the chance, you have to try both.

The days of just us traveling every fall together have slipped away to make room for other things, but they will forever be among my favorite memories. Lisa has for YEARS gotten me to wildly decorate a hat for the Kentucky Derby. We don't always win, but we sure have fun.

Lisa's parents Sharon and the late Vern Vance discovered the island over 50 years ago, in 1973. Lisa was just 13, and her brother wanted to stay in a cabin. They found themselves in the for sale section rather than the rental section of the paper. Her dad called and talked to Joe Allen. They had one last cabin on Donegal Bay. Joe didn't want to rent it, Vern didn't want to buy it, so they compromised by trying out the cabin. By the end of the weekend they owned it. They wanted to get the kids out of Lansing. Both were school teachers , and were never able to escape a ringing phone. The cabin had no phone, and it stayed that way until recent years. Lisa really didn't like it at first, because she didn't know anyone. One summer her dad renewed his certification to teach Driver's training, and Lisa met some local kids, most notably Cindy Gillespie- Cushman who could and would make it her mission in life to make someone feel welcomed and loved. They remain great friends to this day. Lisa spent lots of time at the Gillespie home, and was quite close to Cindy's mom, Rita.

She has worn a few hats over the years. Wife to Robert, mom to Cody and her job at the school are her most loved hats. Her current favorite 'job' is volunteering at the Resale Shop. She enjoys lots of the activities at the Community Center. She plays pickleball, takes ukulele lessons virtually. In the summer she has her gift shop to keep her busy. Her pets, Pirate and Chalupa, keep her hopping.

Lisa still owns the cabin (aptly named Butterfly Beach), and hosts us girls for bonfires and shenanigans. Looking forward, her son is getting married and Lisa is happy to be gaining a daughter. Brooke is a lovely lass. She is headed back to Alabama soon. I am excited for her.

We ended our visit walking down memory lane for a while. We have so many shared ones. I can't wait to make more. Truly the best friend anyone could ever have.

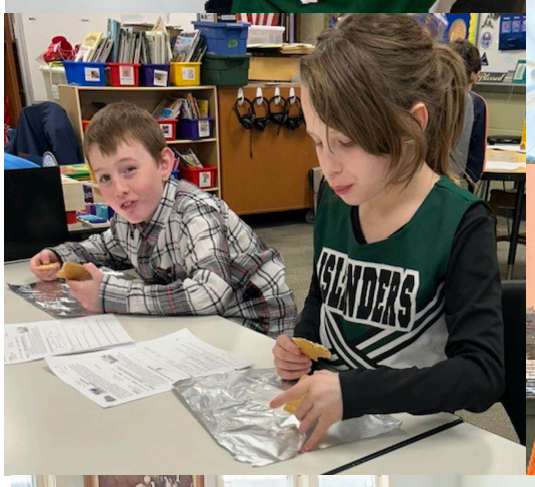
Stay up to date using the Beaver Island Community Center calendar!

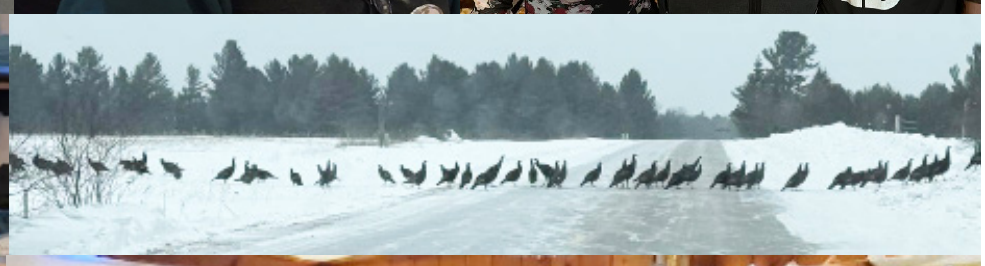
For the most recent and upcoming island events, visit the website.

https://biccenter.org/calendar/

Northern Islander

MARCH





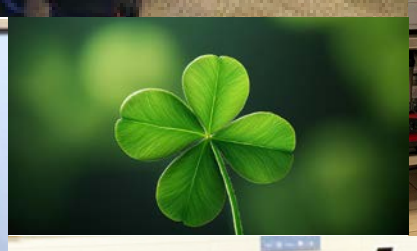


PHOTO CREDITS: BICC, Beaver Islamd This or That, Anna Van Deventer, Beaver Island Community School, Amy Marschner, Amy McKinney Wieland, Cheryl Oliver Kern, Skyar Faith Marsh, Michelle LaFreniere

NORTHERN ISLANDER

HELP THE LEPRECHAUN GET TO HIS POT OF GOLD!

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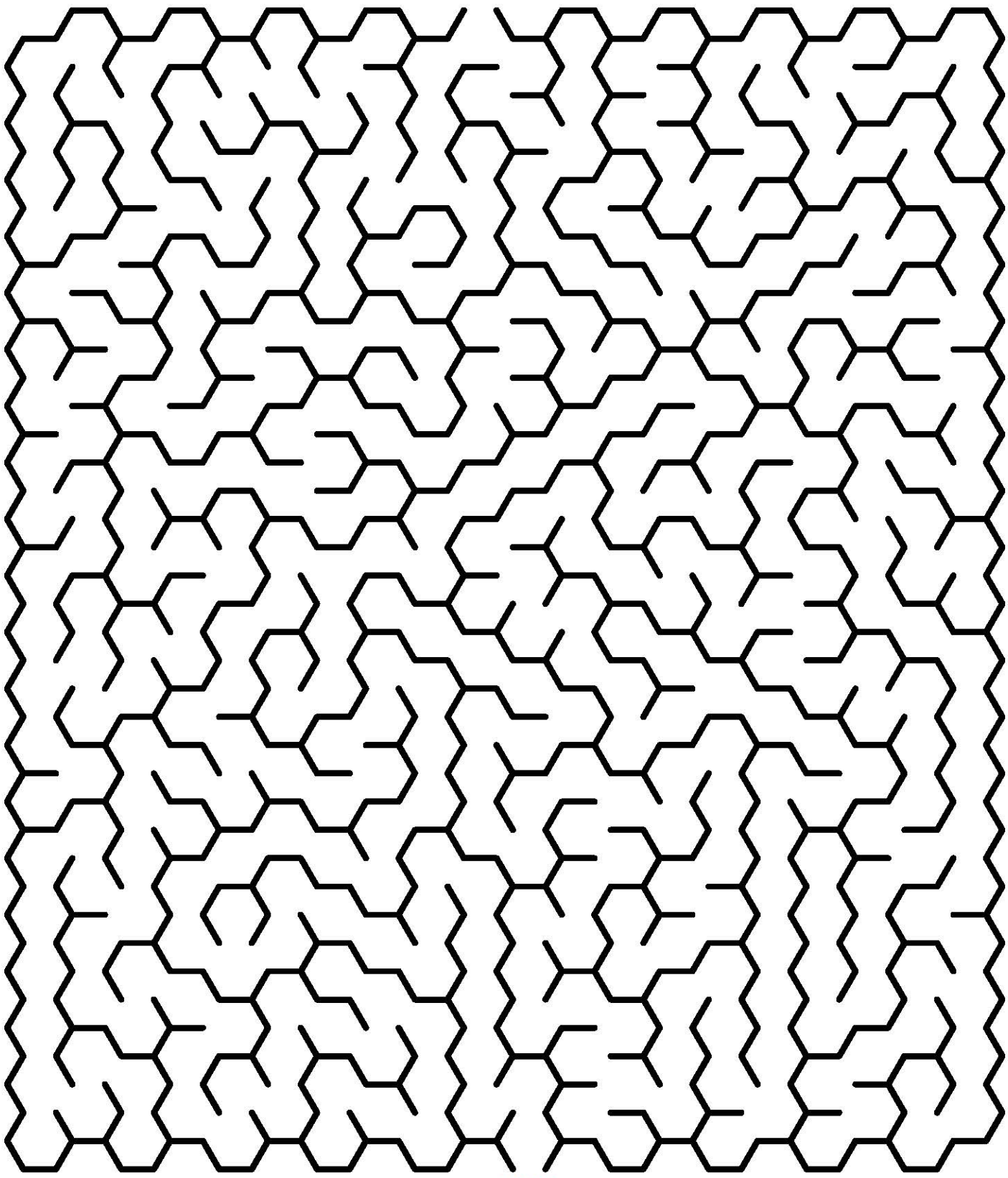

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GREEN
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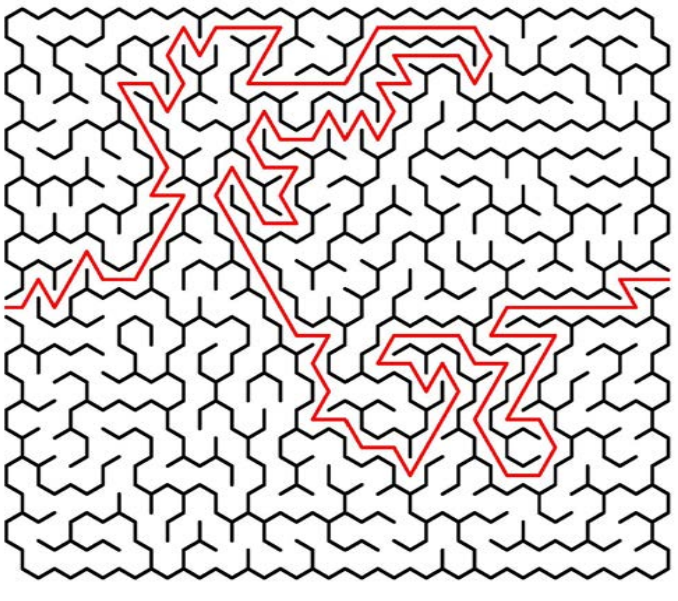
ST. PATRICKS DAY
ISLAND TREASURES RESALE SHOP
The Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary operates the shop to support our Fire Department.
The more you shop, the safer we make our island!
26551 Donegal Bay Rd
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2534

ANSWERS

Begin



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WHAT IS THE BEAVER ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

By Angel LaFevre-Welke

There are so many vital organizations that make Beaver Island the special place it is. One of these organizations that quietly works in the background with the businesses, non-profit organizations, and municipalities is the Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce. Here is a bit of background about the Chamber. Mission: To promote and develop the economic prosperity and our natural resources of Beaver Island through leadership, education, advocacy, relationship development, and innovation.

Vision: To be the leader in providing comprehensive resources for the Beaver Island business community.
Structure: The Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce was established in 1988 and is a 501(c)6 not for profit corporation in the State of Michigan. A Board President and Board of Directors lead this organization. An Executive Director oversees the day-to-day operations of the Chamber.
Values: The Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce has embraced the following institutional values to direct our governance and activities:

Excellence: Meeting the highest expectations.
Stewardship: Respecting and protecting community resources.
Integrity: Demonstrating honesty and trustworthiness in action and intent.
Vision: Imagining the possibilities
Inclusiveness: Respecting and valuing broad participation in community dialogue and decision making

The 2025 Chamber board of directors are:

Carol Burton, President (St. James Boat Shop and Burton's Rentals, Executive Director, Beaver Island Music Fest).
Theresa McDonough, Vice President (McDonough Construction, Eager Beaver Clean and Store)
Vicki Fingeroot, Treasurer (Harbor Bodega Catering)
Angel Welke, Secretary (Island Airways)
Eric Hodgson (Shamrock, Beachcomber, Harbor Market, Daddy Franks, Beaver Island Lodge)
Dale Keyes (Paradise Bay Coffee)
Vic Vandeventer (Emerald Isle Inn)
Lois Stipp (Beaver Island Gallery)
Lisa Gillespie (Shipwreck Shirts)

Executive Director Paul Cole manages the day-to-day operators of the Chamber. Paul was born on Beaver Island and returned home after his retirement. He tackled the Chamber of Commerce position and has been instrumental in the expanded membership of Island businesses, robust social media presence, revamping of the website, and enhancing cooperative relationships with many Island organizations.

In 2022, the Executive Director of the Chamber led the Board of Directors of the Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce with the creation of a Strategic Plan for the organization. This document was updated and approved in January 2025. Below are some highlights of the conclusion of the 2022 strategic plan.

- Ninety-nine percent of Island businesses participate in the Chamber.
- A new event, Harvest on the Harbor (HOTH), was created in October to expand on the existing "Bite of Beaver Island" event. The new HOTH event has grown each year and is well attended. There has been a great deal of positive community feedback from this event.
- The Beaver Island Visitors Guide was expanded to include more maps, visitor information, "Good Visitors Guide," as well as expanded event information.
- Several very well attended "Business After Hours" events took place with 30-50 attendees.
- The Chamber website has undergone several major updates, and the information is kept up-to-date and relevant.

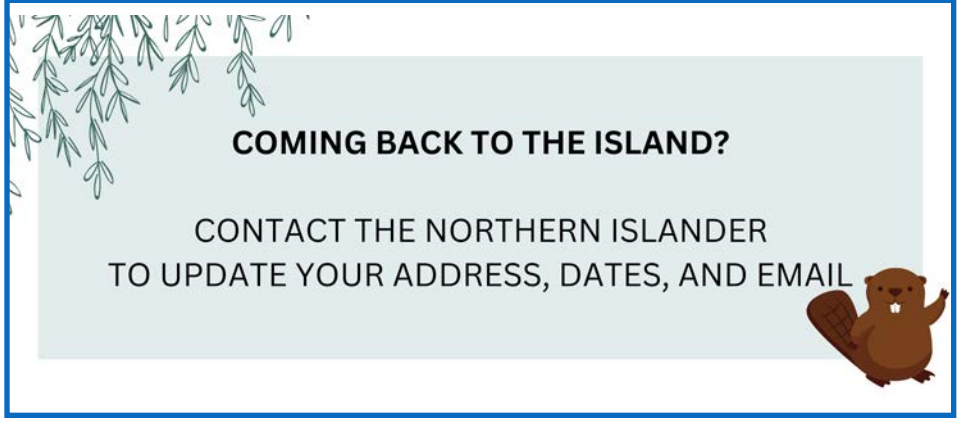
ISLAND HISTORY BOOKS

Lori Taylor-Blitz, Executive Director

We cordially invite you to become a sponsor for the upcoming re-print of the Journals of Beaver Island History Volumes 1 and 5. As we prepare for these reprints, it is important to note that advance-ments in technology and increasing costs have significantly raised the expenses compared to the original printings.

Sponsors will receive acknowledgment within the front jacket of each journal. The anticipated cost for each journal reprint is $5,000.

For further information, please contact Lori at 231.448.2254 or via email at director@beaverislandhistory.org



BREAKING THE SPEED BARRIER

By Bill Reed

"If you build it, they will come" doesn't just work in the movies. It applies equally well to public infrastructure projects. A new highway capacity intended to alleviate congestion can eventually stimulate so much additional traffic that it leads to more traffic jams. Launching the Emerald Isle ferry increased the boat company's car-carrying capacity by 50% at the turn of this century. Twenty-five years later, you'd better reserve your summer car transit months in advance or risk leaving it behind on one side or the other.

When my family originally signed up for TDS's DSL service on Beaver Island, we did so mainly to avoid trips to the library just to check e-mail. Now, with Netflix movies streaming while Tik Tok is scrolling, Spotify playing, Aura displaying, and Pop still trying to check his e-mail, the DSL frequently comes to a screeching halt with that exasperating twirling circle thing that says- wait. It's called a "throbber" by the way.

Our experience would seem to be the norm. IBIS World, an industry research firm, reports that internet traffic has recently increased on average by 22% per year- nearly tripling over the past five years. As capacity and reach have increased, so have the uses to which it is put. The FCC's Broadband Download Speed Requirements matrix illustrated here presents a snapshot view of this trend. Most of the applications driving the demand for ever greater internet speeds didn't even exist when the Emerald Isle started running.

BROADBAND DOWNLOAD SPEED REQUIREMENTS

Users/Devices	Light Use (basic: e-mail, brousing video, VoIP)	Moderate Use (basic + one high use)	High Use (basic + >1 HD Video, video conference gaming, distance learning
One	3 - 8 Mbps	3-8 Mbps	12-25 Mbps
Two	3 - 8 Mbps	12-25 Mbps	12-25 Mbps
Three	12-25 Mbps	12-25 Mbps	> 25 Mbps
Four	12-25 Mbps	> 25 Mbps	> 25 Mbps

Source: FCC Household Broadband Guide

DSL Sufficient
DSL Marginal
DSL Insufficient

The "light use" applications in the FCC chart would have seemed like heavy use only a few years ago. What will the "heavy use" applications list look like a few years from now? It can be confidently predicted that more speed will be required. The number of devices using internet bandwidth is proliferating even faster than users. Fire detection and security system monitoring has migrated from the phone system to the internet. Home heating and cooling systems are "connected" and accessible for remote monitoring and control over the internet. Implanted heart monitors transmit data from home base stations to health professionals over the internet. Worried you forgot to turn off the oven when you left home? That new stove is connected and accessible. So are individual light bulbs.

As connected devices proliferate and users engage with ever more bandwidth-hungry applications, the internet speed requirements trajectory will bend continuously upward. A telecommunications system that is barely limping along today will fail miserably in the face of such a data onslaught. In this context, it is important to note that the 12-25 Mbps speed requirement that dominates the FCC matrix is the upper limit of the Island's current DSL service.

Today, the Beaver Island School can routinely offer its high school students access to remote advanced placement and college credit courses that require high-speed Internet bandwidth. This is so because the school has bypassed the island's antiquated telephone network and joined the high-speed fiber "pools of service" network established by the BIA. This arrangement serves students only while they are in the building, however. Principal Wil Cwikiel reports that occasionally, a teacher has had to open the building after hours so that an AP student could complete an assignment. This would not be necessary if the broadband speed required to access distance learning courses was uniformly available around the island.

Likewise, the remote work movement that accelerated during Covid has compounded the demand for internet speed. The video conferencing that is the new workplace norm requires both high speed and low latency to operate without distracting interruptions. The term "latency" refers to the time required for a signal to reach from origin to destination. DSL latency is three to four times that for fiber optic signals on average. The practical impact of this is the annoying video freeze and flutter effect that can occur on DSL circuits during Zoom calls (or a live streaming NFL game on Hulu).

Business applications increasingly run on remote computers "in the cloud". The exchange of large files to-and-from a host computer shared among remote collaborators who are having a live video meeting to discuss the subject data is a common occurrence. A local network that cannot accommodate such usage will be avoided…by say: an engineer looking for a Michigan vacation location where she can stay current on a CAD design project her team is working on while she is away. Along with the view and access to the beach, high speed internet access would be a marketing asset for a hotel or Airbnb on Beaver Island. Lacking it could be a competitive disadvantage is off-island alternatives, even with that great view.

The non-profit Center on Rural Innovation released a study last year that measured the impact of high-speed broadband utilization on rural communities. Compared to a control group, the study found "that counties with higher broadband utilization have higher growth rates in entrepreneurship (new businesses and higher self- employment), higher per capita income growth rates, and higher GDP growth rates than in otherwise similar counties."

Widespread access to high-speed broadband is prerequisite for high utilization of it. The "pools of service" community effort secures broadband benefits for a few key island institutions. The DIY satellite internet option can help some individual and business users. But the economic benefits identified by the Innovation study can only be realized with community-wide access to high-speed internet service.

BEAVER ISLAND IRISH HERITAGE GROUP ANNOUNCES 2025 TICKETS ON SALE MARCH 17

By Kitty McNamara

Happy St. Patrick's Day: Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona daoibh!

The Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group is excited to announce that tickets for the 2025 Féile will go on sale on the morning of March 17th, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day! Festival dates are Friday and Saturday, September 5 & 6, with a few events spilling over into Thursday and Sunday.

Get Your Tickets Early – Limited Availability!
A total of 550 weekend passes will be sold, with 150 "Early Bird" tickets available at a special price of **$85.00 each**. After these initial tickets are sold, the full-price weekend passes will be $95.00. This is a fantastic opportunity to experience one of the most authentic, exciting and anticipated Irish festivals in the region!

2025 Féile Lineup - An Unforgettable Experience
The 2025 Féile is packed with incredible performances, activities, and cultural programs. This year's lineup includes:

- Jerry Early, Anne Connaghan and Friends from Arranmore
- The Byrne Brothers
- The Tartan Terrors
- Rory Mackem
- Danny Gillespie & Friends
- Stay Happy Band
- Ruby John

And many more!

Get ready for **currachs on the water**, lively dancing, talented vendors, and cultural programs, all taking place across a variety of venues from intimate sessions to hall-floor stomping events. There will also be the **Beaver Island Irish American Hall of Fame** to honor the contributions of our Irish American community.

A Celebration of Ireland and Beaver Island
Experience the charm of Beaver Island in late summer – the perfect setting for this lively celebration. Enjoy the **great beaches, hiking trails, restaurants,** and, of course, the wonderful people and craic (Irish for FUN!) that make this island so special and this weekend so immersive of Irish culture.

Get Involved!
In addition to purchasing tickets, there are many ways to become a part of this exciting event. Whether you're interested in sponsorships, making donations, vending, volunteering, or joining the Currach Club, there are numerous opportunities to get involved in the celebration of Irish culture. For more information, visit our website to purchase tickets and explore all the ways to participate: irishfeile.com

We look forward to seeing you at the 2025 Féile! Slaínte!

MARCH 13 BIC Center 6:30 PM
an evening of irish music with
SIUSAN O'ROURKE & ZIG ZEITLER
on sale now! $20 per ticket
BUY A TABLE AND BE ENTERED FOR A DOOR PRIZE
17 AND UNDER FREE WHEN BOOKED WITH AN ADULT
RESERVE YOUR SEAT AT STORE.BICCENTER.ORG
September 5 & 6, 2025
Emerald Isle
Irish Féile
Festival
Féile Tickets on Sale March 17
irishfeile.com

WILD STRAWBERRY
CAFE
WILD STRAWBERRY CAFE
presents
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
15 MAR
16 MAR
KEGS & EGGS
MARCH 15 & 16
FROM 8AM - 12PM
Join us for an Irish breakfast to start your St. Patrick's Day Weekend right! We'll be serving up green eggs & ham, an Irish breakfast, Guinness beef stew with colcannon and more!

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BEAVER ISLAND WILDLIFE NEWS

By Jacque LaFreniere

Trees and Shrubs are ordered for distribution in late April or early May. We plan to have Wild Pear, Domestic Apple, and American/Chinese chestnuts. Shrubs will include Serviceberry, Elderberry, Dogwood, Hazelnut, and Cranberry. Fifty of each will be available for "adoption". This year, we will allow club members first dibs on the trees and shrubs before allowing the general public access. So become a member now!

Membership is:

Individual- $25/year, $75 for 5 years or $250 Lifetime
Family $35/ year
Youth $15/year

Checks should be made out to BIWC and mailed to PO Box 335, Beaver Island, MI 49782. Include Name, address, phone number, and email address.

Beaver Island

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CHICKEN TENDERS
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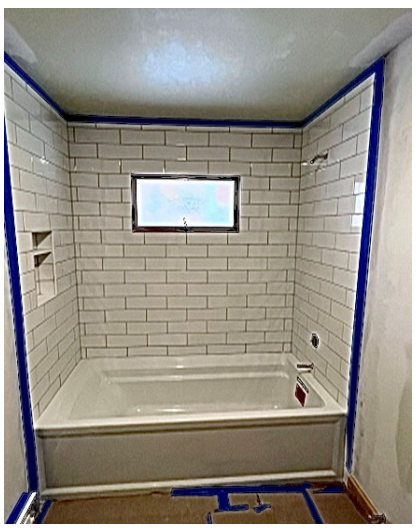

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BIWC Lake Geneserath Ice Fishing Tournament

by Jacque LaFreniere

Can you believe this is the 10th Tournament! We had about 30 signed up to participate in the tournament and others who just came to visit. The ice was very thick- 20-24 inches in most places so required a heavy auger to get through. And the wind was blowing, a bit strong at times. But those in shanties didn't mind. Early on the fish were biting- big Bluegills were pulled through the holes in the ice. Some pike and even a walleye or two. Kids and adults enjoyed it all! Bored kids played in the snow- king of the mountain or just wrestled around. It was great to see so many kids out there!

Thank you to Levi Connor, our Master of the Tournament, who organized it all and kept the fires burning and the food hot at the boat launch.

Kids: Biggest Pike
1- Wojan Kids
2- Nathan Huttenlocker
3- Wojan Kids

Kids: Biggest panfish
1st- Lilly Warmerdam
2-Nathan Huttenlocker
3- Garrett Warmerdam

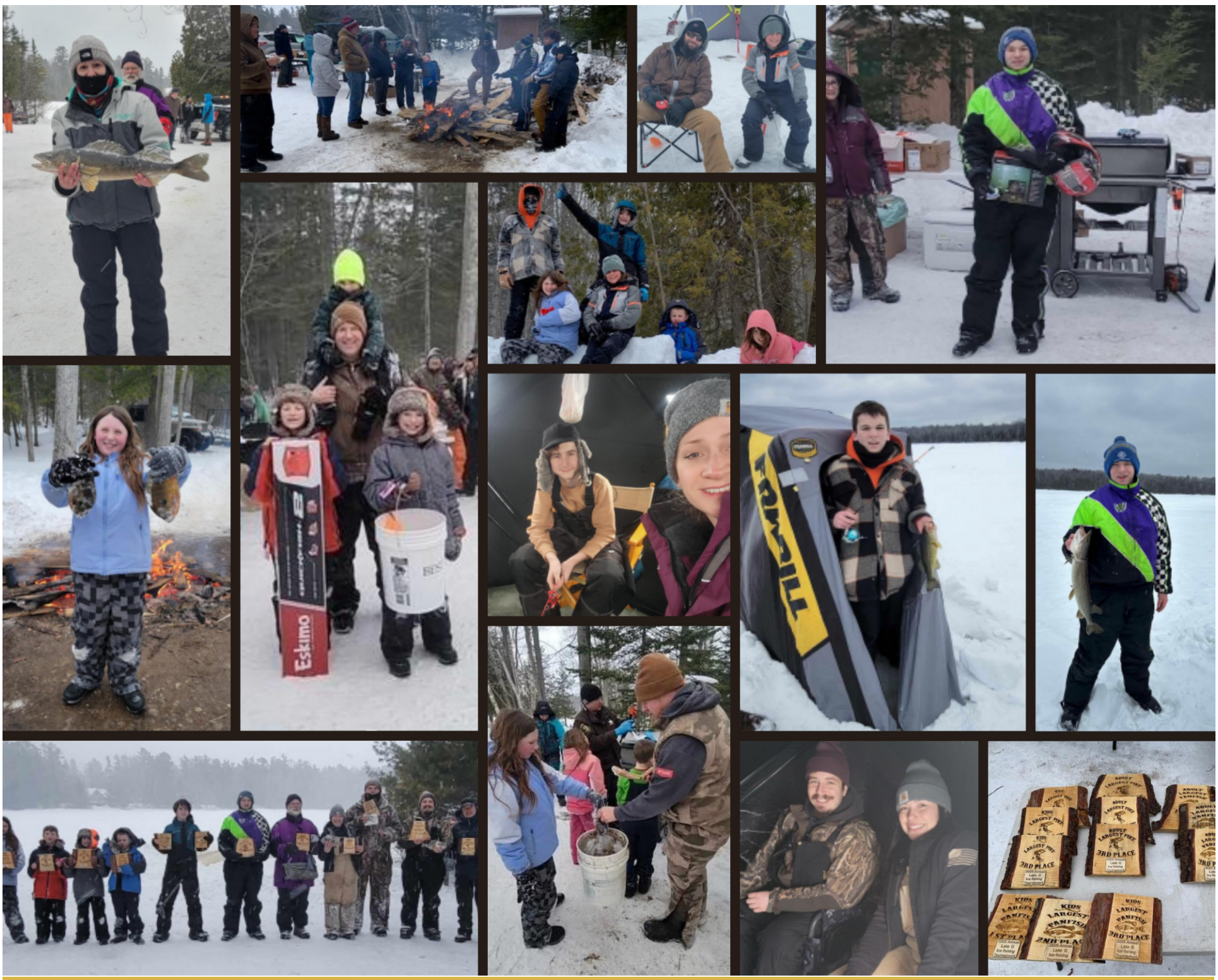
Adults- Biggest Pike
1- Jason Selby
2- Bob Pritchett
3- Doug Fuller

Adults- Biggest Panfish
1- Ben Mach
2- Drake McFadden
3- Shelby Harris

Adults- Smallest pike
Tracey McCafferty

A big thank you to our sponsors:

Don and Amy Langford, Mark and Jacque LaFreniere, Bruce Beaudoin, Levi Connor (and Trish McMillan), Kevin McDonough, Ernie Martin, John and Tracy McCafferty, Nick Olson, Cassidy Fritz, and John Robert. Also, to the businesses who donated prizes including Island Air, Shamrock, BI Golf Course, Island Energy, and Powers Hardware. Also, Kathryn Pease for donating an ice shanty. A big THANK YOU to Anne Woodring who brought tables full of wonderful food to share, McDonough's Market for Hot dogs and buns etc., Paul Cole for wonderful Chili, Josh Runberg for more chili, (I made a vat of Venison Soup to share), and others who sent along some desserts. The beautiful plaques were made by Blair Scott. Thank you to him, too! It truly takes a village to put on such a wonderful event.



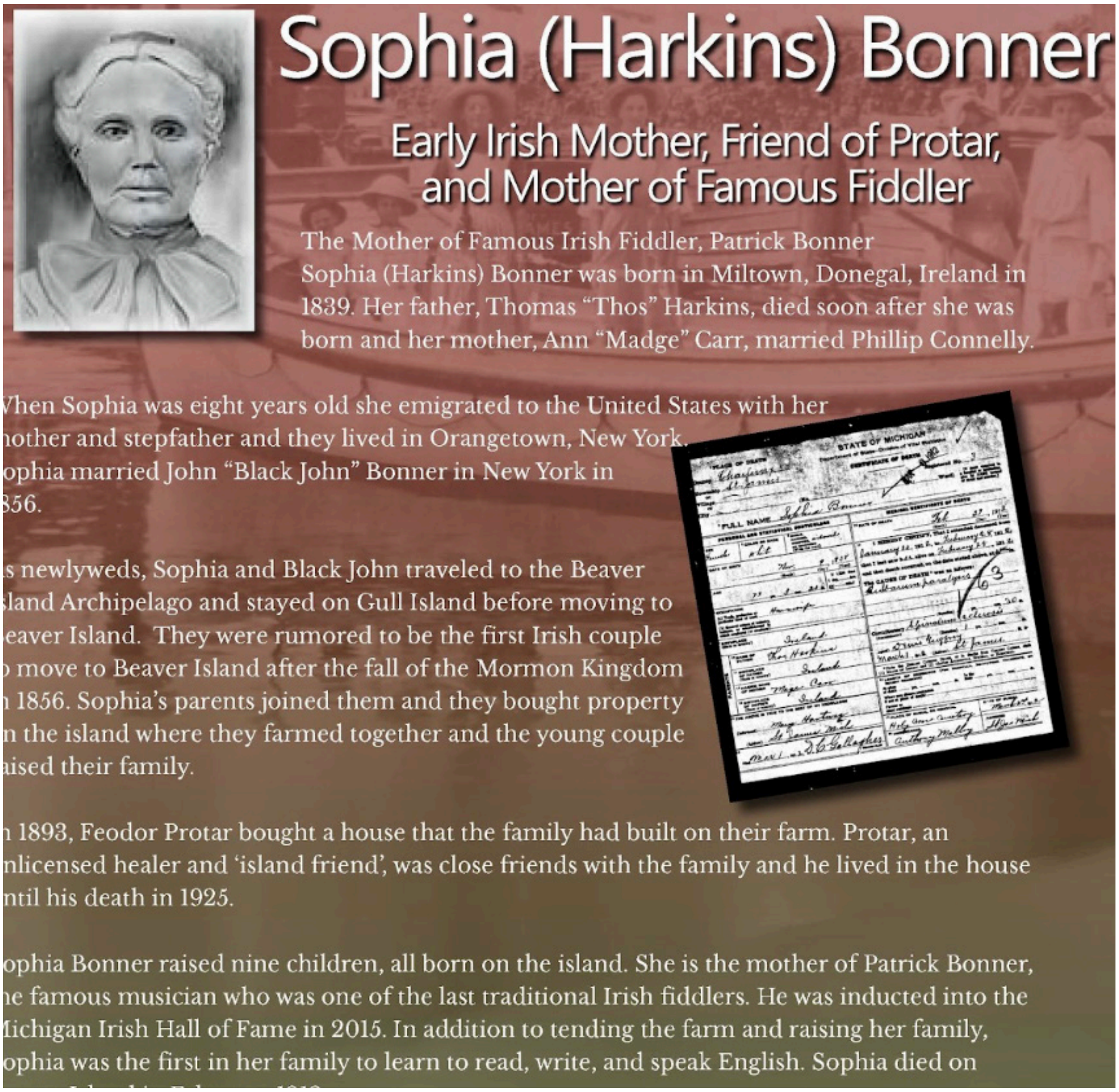
GUTSY WOMEN - SOPHIE (HARKINS) BONNER

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

The Beaver Island Historical Society has proudly featured our Gutsy Women Exhibition in the Print Shop Museum since 2020. The women featured are extraordinary Matriarchs in our community. The exhibit posters tell the stories of women who transformed the Island, raised families and stretched themselves beyond what was expected.

For over 60 years the Society has been preserving and sharing the Island's history and Women have often been an invisible participant in that history. The Women we honor performed dangerous social activism. They spoke out risking ridicule, banishment or worse. Some excelled at doing what was previously 'mens work' and opened avenues for women who followed them. Others filled the role of what was expected of them in their era, but did so with extraordinary courage or grace!

If you would like to learn more about supporting our Gutsy Women exhibit or wish to nominate a woman for the 2025 exhibit please contact Lori Taylor-Blitz at the Print Shop Museum.


Sophia (Harkins) Bonner
Early Irish Mother, Friend of Protar, and Mother of Famous Fiddler
The Mother of Famous Irish Fiddler, Patrick Bonner
Sophia (Harkins) Bonner was born in Miltown, Donegal, Ireland in 1839. Her father, Thomas "Thos" Harkins, died soon after she was born and her mother, Ann "Madge" Carr, married Phillip Connelly.
hen Sophia was eight years old she emigrated to the United States with her
nother and stepfather and they lived in Orangetown, New York.
ophia married John "Black John" Bonner in New York in
856.
STATE OF MICHIGAN
s newlyweds, Sophia and Black John traveled to the Beaver
sland Archipelago and stayed on Gull Island before moving to
eaver Island. They were rumored to be the first Irish couple
move to Beaver Island after the fall of the Mormon Kingdom
1856. Sophia's parents joined them and they bought property
n the island where they farmed together and the young couple
ised their family.
1893, Feodor Protar bought a house that the family had built on their farm. Protar, an
nlicensed healer and 'island friend', was close friends with the family and he lived in the house
ntil his death in 1925.
ophia Bonner raised nine children, all born on the island. She is the mother of Patrick Bonner,
he famous musician who was one of the last traditional Irish fiddlers. He was inducted into the
lichigan Irish Hall of Fame in 2015. In addition to tending the farm and raising her family,
ophia was the first in her family to learn to read, write, and speak English. Sophia died on

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SOMEONE NEEDS TO BE IN CHARGE OF THE MUSIC

By Matt Thomas

Baroque Week's Founders – and Their Concert
March 2025

Image Courtesy VoxGR

Baroque Week's "Founders Concert" will be performed at the Central Michigan University Biological Station on Wednesday, July 30 at 7:30pm. This concert honors the quartet of Island singers who began the Baroque on Beaver Festival: Jeanne Howell, Ruth Kelly, Jane Maehr, and Joe Moore.

On a summer afternoon in August 2001, their quartet performed to a full house at the Episcopal Mission – Baroque's first organized event. As the festival developed from its official founding in 2002, the quartet expanded to become a Chorus. Under the direction of Kevin Simons, it joined the Festival Orchestra in many performances and was featured on each Wednesday night of Baroque Week. As Baroque has grown, its vocal component has evolved to feature major professional vocal soloists like Martha Guth and Ricardo Lugo along with smaller groups like The Choral Scholars. This summer, we are delighted to welcome another new addition to the festival, VoxGR (www.voxgr.com), a chamber choir from Grand Rapids under the direction of Christopher Mason.

As we plan for our upcoming twenty-fourth season (2025) and look toward the twenty-fifth anniversary year of Baroque on Beaver (2026), we continue to honor and appreciate the initial volunteer efforts that made our world-class classical music festival possible. Please plan to join us for this very special evening. Tickets go on sale June 1 at the BIC Center's Ticket Store (www.store.biccenter.org/tickets) for all Baroque events.

For more information about Baroque on Beaver and the Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance, please visit www.baroqueonbeaver.org.

Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance

Great Lakes Island Summit 2025

By Elsie Burton

Mark your calendars for the 2025 Great Lakes Islands Summit, happening September 21-24 on Beaver Island! An immersive event for island community leaders, residents, and advocates, the Summit provides a unique platform for networking, exchanging ideas, and engaging in meaningful discussions on a range of topics that impact our island communities. Sessions will cover challenges and opportunities facing islands across the Great Lakes, including education, economy, housing, environment, and more.

In addition to informative sessions, the Summit provides a forum for collaboration and learning: it's a chance to share best practices, discover innovative solutions, and help shape policies and strategies that support island communities.

Stay tuned for more details, including registration and sponsorship opportunities, coming soon. We can't wait to see you there!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Shelby Harris

Shelby Harris is a smiling, happy face who offers much to our community. Her motivation to jump in and help our community is commendable. Here are her thoughts in her own words:

I made the decision to move here in 2021 to be a year-round island resident working for St. James and Peaine Township as the Administrator for their new Beaver Island Archipelago's Terrestrial Invasive Species Program, which has recently dissolved, unfortunately. I have been coming to the islands my whole life however, as I am a descendant of the Kenwabikise's, Wabanimkee's, Cornstalk's and Peaine's and am very proud of that heritage, always keeping in mind to do my best to make my ancestors proud and represent our families to the best of my abilities. Even before moving here full time, I had volunteered to help the Kenwabikise Family in cooking a traditional meal for the annual Beaver Island Sustainability Fair throughout the years, but as soon as I moved here, I jumped in to further my volunteer efforts and aid this community in any way I was able.

I am currently Secretary for the Amik Circle Society and the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association (BIATA), I belong to the Beaver Island Wildlife Club as a Board Member, the Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative, the Great Lakes Islands Alliance and the CAKE CISMA (Charlevoix Antrim Kalkaska & Emmet Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) Steering Committee, along with being a Board Member of the Beaver Island Association and heading the Invasive Species Initiative and part of the Dark Sky Committee. I have also volunteered for several events held here on the island, including the Beaver Island Historical Society's Kid's Week & "Gutsy Women of Beaver Island" and the Beaver Island Community School's History Adventure activities.

The Islands' history, environment, and sustainability are my core cares, and I work hard to help preserve and uphold their integrity in our everyday lives here in the Archipelago. I plan to continue in these efforts by focusing on better collaboration, transparency, and sustainable practices overall for our island home. Thank you to everyone who has supported me, helped me, and passed along their knowledge - I wouldn't be able to do what I do without this community.

WARBLERS ON THE WATER

By Cheryl Oliver Kern

The Annual Beaver Island Birding Festival, Warblers on the Water, will be held on Beaver Island in northern Lake Michigan May 23, 2025 – May 26, 2025. The island is a spring migratory song and shorebird mecca with over 200 species of birds recorded from the island. Registration is limited, and birders are urged to register early through the Beaver Island Community Center ticket office. Additional information on birding the archipelago can be found through the Beaver Island Birding Trail website.

Researchers and expert field-trip leaders will guide participants to some of the 30+ birding sites on the Beaver Archipelago islands, including boat trips to High and Garden Islands. The Memorial Day Weekend schedule will also include field trips emphasizing botany and herpetology, and all trips are designed to introduce participants to the history and scenery of the islands. Keynote speakers: Dr. Nancy Seefelt, “The Big Year” (Saturday) and Terry Grabill, “Birdman” (Sunday).

Transportation to the island is via ferry or air taxi. Lodging is available on the island, and transportation for the various field trips will be provided to registered participants. More information about transportation, food, and lodging is available on the website.

For more specific information about Warblers on the Water visit our website and for information about the island visit the Chamber of Commerce’s website. The Beaver Island Birding Trail and Warblers on the Water are a project of the Beaver Island Association.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM BRINGS HOME THE HARDWARE!

By Wil Cwikiel

The Islanders travelled to the Northern Lights League Basketball Tournament last weekend in Hannahville. The boys played tough but fell in the first round of play to Grand Marais. The girls won their first round game against Ojibwe on Friday night, earning a spot in the semi-finals on Saturday. The girls won their semi-final game against Mackinac Island, earning a spot in the championship game. Although they played hard throughout the game, at the buzzer the scoreboard indicated that we were runners-up. The trophy looks great in the trophy case! Thanks to all our coaches and athletes for a great season!

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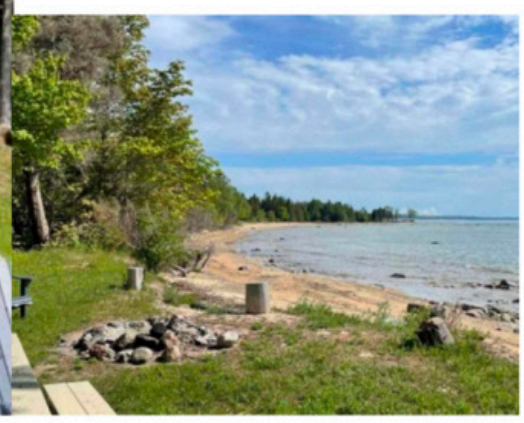

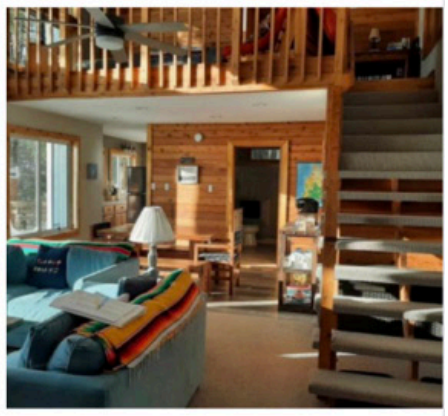

A beautifully remodeled 3 Bedroom-2 Bath home on the NW corner of the Island (right at Cross's Landing) with 95.7 ft. of L. MI frontage. It also has a large inland lot across the road. This two-story house has spectacular views of High and Trout Islands and wonderful sunsets year round. The lot has a nice tree cover and large spruces that frame the view out front. The main level has 1 Bedroom, a full Bathroom, a Kitchen, and a large living/dining room area combined with new picture windows and sliding doors on the lakeside, leading to a large outside deck. The upstairs has 2 Bedrooms, with a balcony deck on the lakeside one. Greenwald Construction was hired in 2022 to add a second bath between the bedrooms. There is a sloped ceiling "mezzanine" area at the top of the stairs that is perfect for a sitting/reading room with a view of the lake or for extra sleeping space that is semi-private. Also that year, the roof was replaced with "hurricane shingles", the lower level main Bath was redone, all west-facing windows were replaced, gutters and gutter guards installed, and siding, trim, and fascia redone. That fall, more improvements were made, including a new front entry door with a storm door, outside lighting fixtures were replaced, and professional removal of some "problem" trees. In 2023 an 8'x10' storage shed was added. Also, the hot water heater was replaced, along with baseboard heaters, outlets, and thermostats. GC was hired again in 24' to completely redo the kitchen, also replacing all the flooring in the kitchen/dining area. The bedrooms were painted and the driveway was improved. There is a high crawlspace that can be used for lots of storage. All in all, over $200,000 of capital improvements were made. This 1248 sqft home is essentially a brand new home. With the raw land value of about $100,000 and the replacement cost of the structures over $630,000, this would cost about $750,000 to reproduce. Therefore it is priced to sell "and is FIRM" at **$595,000**

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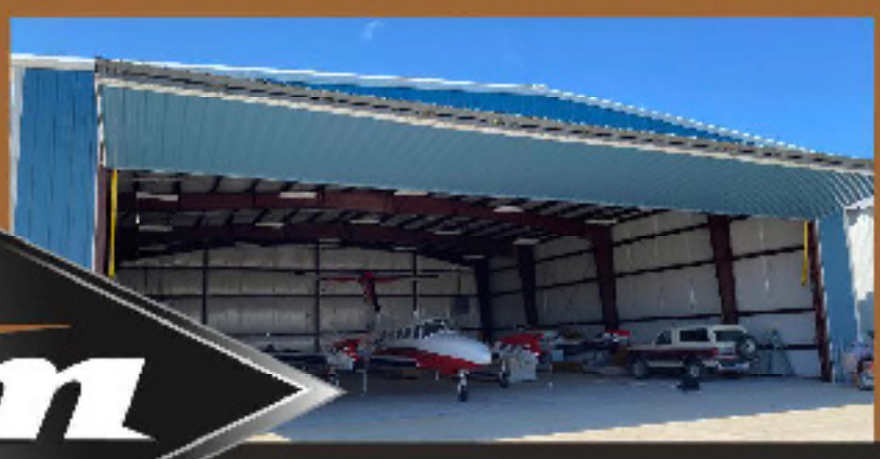

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CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SYNOPSIS FEBRUARY 12, 2025

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on February 12, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Six Commissioners were present.

Motion approved the agenda, as presented.

Motion approved the consent agenda as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #25-020, County Expenditures.

Motion approved Materials Management Planning Committee members in the following representative categories Victor Van Deventer, Solid Waste Disposal Facility; Kirk Miller, Hauler; Andre Grobaski, Materials Recovery Facility; Mark Bevelhymer, Waste Reuse/Diversion/Reduction Facility; Eliza Hensel, Composting/ Anaerobic Facility; Kyra Allen, Environmental Interest Group; Janie McNabb, Regional Planning Agency; Tim Nemecek, Elected City Official; Jonathan Scheel, Business Generates Managed Material; Robin Hissong-Berry, Elected Township Official; and Annemarie Conway, County Commissioner.

Motion to appoint Jeremy Whitley to the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance – No action taken.

Motion approved to table the NLEA appointment until qualification is determined.

Motion approved to remove Commissioner Christensen as alternate and appoint him as a member of the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board.

Motion approved Resolution #25-021, Building Department Reinspection Fee. Resolution #25-022, Shirley Roloff Center Handicap Door Openers. – No action taken.

Motion approved using a door stop to leave doors open during meetings and address handicap door openers in the next budget cycle.

Motion approved Resolution #25-023, Accepting Donations of Money or Property to Charlevoix County.

Motion approved to authorize department heads to approve donations up to $1,000.00 without Board of Commissioner approval. Commissioner Hankins moved to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 Section 8(e) at 10:36 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Kenney.

Motion approved to authorize the Board chair to sign the settlement agreement as presented.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 10:46 a.m. Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

PEAINE TOWNSHIP

By Maria Dal Pra

The Peaine Township board recently approved changing from a .org domain to a .gov domain. Spearheaded by Andy Stebbins, Trustee, the move offers the township various improvements such as enhancing trust when visiting the site, security, and transparency for the public. The former url, PeaineTwp.org will automatically redirect to PeaineTownship.gov.

Verified Legitimacy: The .gov domain is exclusively reserved for official U.S. government agencies at the federal, state, local, and tribal levels. To obtain a .gov domain, an entity must go through a strict verification process, ensuring that it is a legitimate government body. In contrast, .org domains are open to anyone and do not require verification, making them susceptible to misuse by unofficial organizations or even bad actors.

Increased Public Trust: People expect government websites to provide accurate, official information. A .gov address signals to visitors that the website is a trusted source, helping to prevent confusion with nonprofits, advocacy groups, or other organizations that might use a .org domain. This distinction is particularly important for services related to elections, taxes, public safety, and local government operations.

Enhanced Security: Cybersecurity threats, such as phishing attacks, are a growing concern for government agencies. The .gov domain is managed by the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), which provides additional protections, including monitoring for threats, DNS security enhancements, and support for agencies to strengthen their defenses. A .org domain does not have these built-in security benefits, leaving it more vulnerable to cyberattacks.

Consistency Across Government Communications: Using a .gov domain ensures consistency and credibility across official communications, including emails, public notices, and digital services. This helps prevent scams that might use .org or other domains to impersonate government agencies, reducing the risk of misinformation.

The move to the new .gov domain will take place over the next month. This change will not impact whether you search using the former PeaineTwp.org domain or the new PeaineTownship.gov domain. Andy Stebbins will continue to research and provide information to the township board for next steps in improving technology, security, document management and our online presence.

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